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PATENT

Atty Docket No.: 200312030-1  
App. Ser. No.: 10/614,856**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Please find a listing of the claims below, with the statuses of the claims shown in parentheses. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.*

1. (Currently amended) A system for managing inventory of components in a room, said system comprising:

[[an]] a plurality of identification devices affixed to respective associated components, said plurality of identification devices being configured to communicate identification information relating to [[an]] the respective associated components and comprising respective digital displays configured to display the identification information;

a reader device configured to substantially autonomously receive the identification information from the identification devices;

means for identifying [[the]] locations of the identification devices from the identification information received by the reader device from the plurality of identification devices; and

a controller configured to communicate with the reader device and compile the identification information received from the reader device and to communicate with the means for identifying the locations of the identification devices to maintain an inventory of the components and their respective locations.

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2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a memory accessible by said controller, wherein said controller is configured to store the identification information and the locations of the identification devices in the memory.
3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the components comprise electronic devices for use in data centers.
4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the identification devices comprise labels affixable to the components, said labels having identifying indicia displayed thereon.
5. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein the identifying indicia comprises at least one of text, barcode, or a display on a screen.
6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the identification devices comprise relatively distinctive identifying characteristics, said characteristics comprising at least one of color, composition, and style.
7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a data transmitting device configured to transmit data to the identification devices;  
and  
wherein the identification devices comprise electronic apparatuses configured to receive data from the data transmitting device.

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8. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the reader device comprises at least one of an imaging device, an infrared reader, and an apparatus configured to wirelessly communicate with the identification devices.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the reader device comprises an information gathering device located on at least one of a wall, ceiling, or floor of the room.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a robotic device having a movable arm and being configured to travel through the room, wherein the reader device is attached to the movable arm of the robotic device.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for identifying the locations of the identification devices comprises labels affixed at various positions of the room, said labels including indicia identifying the locations of the labels.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the means for identifying the locations of the identification devices comprises location aware devices configured to determine their locations with respect to other location aware devices and to a fixed reference point.

Claims 13-36. (Canceled).

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37. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of identification devices further comprises respective input modules configured to enable receipt of the identification information of the respective associated components.

38. (New) The system according to claim 37, wherein the input modules comprise infrared ports configured to enable receipt of the identification information from an electronic device through infrared communication.

39. (New) The system according to claim 37, wherein the input modules enable the identification information to be received into the plurality of identification devices directly from the respective associated components.

40. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of identification devices further comprise respective output modules configured to wirelessly transmit the identification information, wherein the reader device is further configured to receive the wirelessly transmitted identification information.

41. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the reader device comprises an imaging device positioned on one of a ceiling and a wall of the room, wherein the imaging device is configured to obtain images of the plurality of identification devices, and wherein the means for identifying is further configured to read the identification information from the images of the plurality of the identification devices.

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42. (New) The system according to claim 41, wherein the imaging device is configured to simultaneously obtain images of a plurality of identification devices.

43. (New) A system for managing inventory of components in a room, said system comprising:

a plurality of identification devices affixed to respective associated components, said plurality of identification devices being configured to communicate identification information relating to the respective associated components;

an imaging device positioned on one of a ceiling and a wall of the room, wherein the imaging device is configured to obtain images of the plurality of identification devices in a substantially autonomous manner to receive the identification information from the identification devices;

means for identifying locations of the identification devices from reading the identification information contained in the images obtained by the imaging device; and

a controller configured to communicate with the imaging device and compile the identification information received from the reader device and to communicate with the means for identifying the locations of the identification devices to maintain an inventory of the components and their respective locations.

44. (New) The system according to claim 43, wherein the imaging device is configured to simultaneously obtain images of a plurality of identification devices.

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45. (New) The system according to claim 43, wherein the plurality of identification devices comprise respective digital displays configured to display the identification information.

46. (New) The system according to claim 43, wherein each of the plurality of identification devices further comprise respective input modules configured to enable receipt of the identification information of the respective associated components.

47. (New) The system according to claim 46, wherein the input modules comprise infrared ports configured to enable receipt of the identification information from an electronic device through infrared communication.

48. (New) The system according to claim 46, wherein the input modules enable the identification information to be received into the plurality of identification devices directly from the respective associated components.

49. (New) A system for managing inventory of components in a room, said system comprising:

a plurality of identification devices affixed to respective associated components, said plurality of identification devices visually displaying location information pertaining to locations of the respective associated components;

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a reader device configured to substantially autonomously receive the location information from the identification devices through imaging of the visually displayed location information;

means for identifying locations of the identification devices from the location information received by the reader device; and

a controller configured to communicate with the reader device and compile the identification information received from the reader device and to communicate with the means for identifying the locations of the identification devices to maintain an inventory of the components and their respective locations.

50. (New) The system according to claim 49, wherein the plurality of identification devices comprise respective digital displays configured to display the location information.

51. (New) The system according to claim 49, wherein the reader device comprises at least one of an imaging device, an infrared reader, and an apparatus configured to wirelessly communicate with the identification devices.

52. (New) The system according to claim 49, wherein each of the plurality of identification devices further comprises respective input modules configured to enable receipt of the identification information of the respective associated components.

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53. (New) The system according to claim 52, wherein the input modules comprise infrared ports configured to enable receipt of the identification information from an electronic device through infrared communication.

54. (New) The system according to claim 52, wherein the input modules enable the identification information to be received into the plurality of identification devices directly from the respective associated components.